

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Kindly **REPLACE** paragraph [00021] with the following:

[00021] It is to be understood that these drawings are solely for purposes of illustrating the concepts of the invention and are not intended as a definition of the limits of the invention. The embodiments shown in Figures 1 through 5 [[4]] and described in the accompanying detailed description are to be used as illustrative embodiments, and should not be construed as the only manner of practicing the invention. It is to be understood that these drawings are for purposes of illustrating the concepts of the invention and are not to scale. Also, the same reference numerals, possibly supplemented with reference characters where appropriate, have been used to identify similar elements.

Kindly **REPLACE** paragraph [00024] with the following:

[00024] At block 240, the selected competitor partners are removed from the further selection in the current round. At block 250, a determination is made whether more competitors remain in the first group. If the answer is in the negative, then each of the competitors has been paired or partnered and processing ends. However, if the answer is in the affirmative, then a next competitor in the first group is selected at block 260 [[160]]. Processing then continues at block 230 until each of the competitors has been paired or partnered.

Kindly **REPLACE** paragraph [00027] with the following:

[00027] Figure 3 illustrates a flow chart of a second aspect of an exemplary process 300 for selecting competitive partners. In this aspect of the invention, the participant selection order is obtained at block 310. At block 320 [[310]], a competitor is selected. At block 330, the

selected competitor is associated with any of the remaining participants or competitors to form a competitive pair for the current round of events. At block 340, the selected competitive partners are removed from the further selection in the current round. At block 350, a determination is made whether more competitors remain. If the answer is in the negative, then each of the competitors has been paired or partnered and processing ends. However, if the answer is in the affirmative, then a next remaining competitor is selected at block 360. Processing then continues at block 330 until each of the competitors has been paired or partnered.

Kindly **REPLACE** paragraph [00060] with the following:

[00060] In one embodiment, processor 520 may include code which, when executed, performs the operations illustrated herein. The code may be contained in memory 530, read or downloaded from a memory medium such as a CD-ROM or floppy disk represented as 583, or may be read from a magnetic or optical medium (not shown) which is accessible by processor 520, when needed, or provided by manual input device 585 <sup>[[485]]</sup>, such as a keyboard or a keypad entry. Information items provided by input device 585 <sup>[[485]]</sup>, and/or magnetic medium 583 may be accessible to processor 520 through input/output device 540, as shown. Further, the data received by input/output device 540 may be immediately accessible by processor 520 or may be stored in memory 530. Processor 520 may further provide the results of the processing shown herein to display 580, recording device 590 or a second processing unit through input/output device 540, as shown. Further, the data received by input/output device 540 may be immediately accessible by processor 520 or may be stored in memory 530. Processor 520 may further provide the results of the processing shown herein to display 580, recording device 590 or a second processing unit 595 through I/O device 540.